

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, comprising a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition formed ~~according to claim 1,~~ from a water-soluble polymer A, a water-insoluble component B, a water-incompatible solvent C that dissolves the water-insoluble component B and is incompatible with water, a water-soluble plasticizer D, and water, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition in a dry state has water solubility according to Technical Association of The Pulp and Paper Industry Useful Method 213 (TAPPI UM 213), and wherein ~~from which~~ water and solvent have been essentially removed from the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, said adhesive composition being in a dry state.

12. (original): A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition according to claim 11, which has a (water-insoluble dry part)/(total dry part) ratio by weight of about 0.5 or less in a dry state.

13. (original): A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition according to claim 12, wherein the (water-insoluble dry part)/(total dry part) ratio by weight is about 0.3 or less.

14. (original): A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition according to claim 12, wherein the (water-insoluble dry part)/(total dry part) ratio by weight is about 0.25 or less.

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15. (original): A pressure-sensitive adhesive tape comprising a substrate having applied on at least a part of one or both surfaces thereof a pressure-sensitive adhesive according to any one of claims 11, 12, 13 or 14.

16. (currently amended): A pressure-sensitive adhesive tape according to claim 15, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape is used in splicing paper in a papermaking or printing process.

17. (new): A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, comprising a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition formed from a water-soluble polymer A, a water-insoluble component B, a water-incompatible solvent C that dissolves the water-insoluble component B and is incompatible with water, a water-soluble plasticizer D, and water, wherein:

the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition in a dry state has water solubility according to Technical Association of The Pulp and Paper Industry Useful Method 213 (TAPPI UM 213);

the water-insoluble component B has a tack at ambient temperature and is a polymer or is an adhesive composition containing a polymer and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a tackifier and a plasticizer; and

water and solvent have been essentially removed from the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, said adhesive composition being in a dry state.

18. (new): A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, comprising a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition formed from 100 parts by weight of a water-soluble polymer A, from about 5 to about 100 parts by weight of a water-insoluble component B, from about 5 to about 500 parts by weight of a water-incompatible solvent C that dissolves the water-insoluble component B and is incompatible with water, from about 10 to about 300 of a water-soluble plasticizer D, and from about 100 to about 800 parts by weight of water, wherein:

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the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition in a dry state has water solubility according to Technical Association of The Pulp and Paper Industry Useful Method 213 (TAPPI UM 213); and

water and solvent have been essentially removed from the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, said adhesive composition being in a dry state.